

Application No. 10/625927
Amendment dated October 18, 2006
After Final Office Action of May 24, 2006

Docket No.: 013436.0279PTUS
(Caldini 1-1)

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 12 are pending in this application.

In a Final Office Action mailed 24 May 2006, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 9 because of informalities. Claims 3 and 9 have been amended to overcome this objection. The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 5 – 7; 11, and 12 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Pitcher (US Patent No. 6,721,398) and claims 2 – 4 and 8 – 10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitcher in view of Bass et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0022006).

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner noted:

Pitcher discloses all the elements of independent claim 1, including a unified messaging system (abstract) that serves to interconnect a subscriber with a plurality of independently operable messaging services (column 3, lines 64-66) to which they subscriber (column 3, lines 37-46 and column 4, lines 43 to 50, a plurality of nodes acting independently in a distributed system in which a user receives messages from the nodes of various messaging types), comprising:

sign-on service means (column 6, lines 6 to 9 and 29 to 32), accessible to a subscriber via a communication medium (Id., telephone or web), for providing said subscriber with a single point of access (Id., telephone or web access allows a subscriber single point of access to in-box) for a plurality of independently operable messaging services (see above) that are accessible to said sign-on service means (see column 6) via said communication medium (telephone or web); and

unified service access means (column 10, lines 18 to 64) for sharing personal address book and calendaring applications (column 10, lines 58 to 61) among said plurality of independently operable messaging services via said communication medium (Id.).

Applicants have reviewed the cited Pitcher Patent and the Examiner's clearly stated rounds of rejection, and has amended the independent claims 1 and 7 to distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited Pitcher Patent and also presents the following remarks in support of patentability.

The invention is a Single Sign-On Service for Communication Network Messaging which provides a wireless subscriber with the ability to login with a single service provider via a single user interface with a single login and password, then move seamlessly among the selected messaging services to retrieve messages and share personal address book and calendaring applications. The subscriber logs into the Single Sign-On Service from either the wireless station set

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interface or from the WEB user interface using a laptop or personal computer to access an AnyPath Web server. Once the subscriber has signed on to the AnyPath Web server, the subscriber's account information is accessed in a centralized profile which stores the unique sets of login and password data for each of the independently operable messaging services (Short Message Service (SMS), unified messaging, voice-mail messaging) using a single directory server. There are two main components to enabling unified access to user data: (1) the service wide directory which stores the unique sets of login and password data for each of the independently operable messaging services, and (2) the single user interface which is used to activate the automatically operable login processes for each of the selected messaging services.

The cited Pitcher Patent discloses a unified messaging system that enables a user to create e-mailboxes in any node served by the network. Voice, text, fax, and e-mail messages are all stored at the mailbox that receives them and when the user logs into the system at any node, they are presented with a listing of all mailboxes that contain messages for the user. The user can then access all messages from the single accessed location.

The basic components of this system are defined in Column 4, lines 24 – 29:

Receiving Messages: The methods by which messages and communication enter the system. Once the messages are taken, they are put into the central In-box awaiting the user collection.

Collecting Messages: The methods by which messages are retrieved from the central In-box.

Thus, each node automatically forwards the received messages to the central In-box for retrieval by the user.

More particulars of this system are described in Column 4, lines 43 – 62:

The user can receive messages via any of the nodes of the unified messaging system of the present invention by voicemail message, fax message, e-mail message, web response message, phone answering message, SMS and other wireless "short message service" based message, notification message, system message, video-mail message, and white board message.

Once the messages are received, they are stored in the user's In-box. The In-box to the user has one central location, i.e., one location logically. The Actual In-box has the messages and components spread over the distributed node based system, physically distributed.

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The types of incoming messages which can potentially be supported by the system of the present invention are detailed below.

For voicemail messages, each user is assigned a unique phone number on each node they subscribe to. This phone number acts as a unique identifier for calls coming in. In this way, incoming calls are matched to the appropriate user.

Thus, the Pitcher system stores all of the message information in the user's central In-box which can be retrieved as described in Column 5, line 61 – Column 6, line 12:

Once the user has received one or more of the messages described in the above section, they are deposited in the user's In-box. They must now be collected. There are two categories of message collection - Push and Pull. A Push collection method involves the message being pushed out at the control of the In-box intelligent routing agents. A Pull collection method involves the user connecting to the In-box and manually requesting the messages.

Messages can be collected by phone by calling any node. This involves a "Gateway Collection" number which rings on the node machine hardware. An account and PIN number is then entered and messages are retrieved via a voice menu system. Where the node based unified messaging system of the present invention differs from that of the traditional systems is that the user can call any node. These nodes, of course, can be located anywhere in the world and are all connected via the network connection.

Thus, all of the nodes in the Pitcher system are linked together and do not require a separate login and password to access the messages stored therein, as noted in Column 6, lines 29 – 32:

Messages can be collected by the Internet World Wide Web interface from any Internet terminal with a WWW browser. This involves entering the web address and then entering an account log-on-detail and password. Once authenticated, the user is presented with a view of their In-box in graphical form.

Thus, the nodes of the Pitcher system are linked together and do not have a separate login and password for each node; therefore, they fail to show or suggest automatically initiating a login into each of the selected messaging systems, using the set of login and password data associated with each selected messaging system, as is specifically required in Applicants' claim 1:

A unified messaging system that serves to interconnect a subscriber with a plurality of independently operable messaging services to which they subscribe, each of said messaging services having a separate login and password for said subscriber, said unified messaging system comprising:

sign-on service means, accessible to a subscriber via a communication medium, for providing said subscriber with a single point of access for a plurality of independently operable messaging services that are accessible to said sign-on service means via said communication medium, comprising:

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service-wide directory means for storing said separate login and password data for said subscriber for each of said messaging services,

user interface means for providing said subscriber with a single user interface to access all of said messaging services, and

user login means for providing said subscriber with a single login to access said single user interface; and

unified service access means, responsive to said subscriber selecting at least one of said messaging services, for using said subscriber login and password data to automatically log in to each of said messaging services selected by said subscriber via said user interface to access messages stored therein and share personal address book and calendaring applications among said selected messaging services via said communication medium.

Therefore, Applicants believe that claim 1 is allowable under 35 USC §102(e) over the cited Pitcher Patent for the reasons noted above. Applicants also believe that independent claim 7 is also allowable under 35 USC §102(e) over the Pitcher Patent for the reasons noted with respect to claim 1. Applicants also believe that claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 are allowable under 35 USC §102(e), since these claims depend on allowable base claims.

The Examiner also rejected claims 2 – 4 and 8 – 10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitcher in view of Bass et al. The cited Bass Patent Application discloses a service that enables a user to log into a protected site and access a plurality of protected applications, using the single login as the access permission. However, as with the Pitcher Patent, the Bass Patent Application does not have a separate login and password for each application that resides on the server. Thus, Applicants believe that the Pitcher and Bass references fail to show or suggest Applicants' invention. Claims 2 – 4 and 8 – 10 are believed allowable under 35 USC §103(a), since these claims depend on allowable base claims and because these cited references fail to show or suggest the structure recited in Applicants' claims as noted above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Examiner Stein is requested to contact the undersigned if a telephone conference could further the allowance of this application.

A Request For Continued Examination, a two-month Petition For Extension Of Time, and the appropriate fees are attached to this paper. If any additional fees are due, please charge our

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Deposit Account No. 50-1848, under Order No. 013436.0279PTUS from which the undersigned is
authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,
PATTON BOGGS LLP

Dated 19 OCTOBER 2006

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